

Message

From: Bucholtz, Paul (DEQ) [BUCHOLTZP@michigan.gov]
Sent: 5/2/2016 9:35:05 PM
To: Synk, Polly (AG) [SynkP@michigan.gov]; Saric, James [saric.james@epa.gov]; Berkoff, Michael [berkoff.michael@epa.gov]; Alfano, Judith (DEQ) [ALFANOJ@michigan.gov]
Subject: FW: Allied Paper update

FYI

From: Bucholtz, Paul (DEQ)
Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 5:29 PM
To: Brown, Melanie (DEQ); Tommasulo, Karen (DEQ); Feuerstein, Heather (DEQ); DEQ-Inquiries-Communication; Sygo, Jim (DEQ); Wagner, Robert (DEQ); Leeming, Susan (DEQ); Sage, Catherine (DEQ); Devantier, Daria W. (DEQ); Kline, David (DEQ); Gonzales-Gray, Gloria (DEQ); Chamberlain, Kathleen (DEQ) (CHAMBERLAINK1@michigan.gov)
Subject: FW: Allied Paper update

All,

I received an email and voicemail from Garret Ellison, Environmental Reporter for MLive. Based on his messages, I thought he wanted to talk specifically about the Allied Operable Unit (OU1) of the river, but he also had questions about the larger river site (Operable Unit 5).

In general he asked about timelines for major deliverables for OU1 and OU5.

OU1 – Proposed Plan issued late last year, Record of Decision by early summer 2016, negotiation of Consent Decree with Responsible Parties late summer, and then initiation of Remedial Design late this year. He also specifically asked about involvement of BioPath solutions. I explained that EPA had engaged early with BioPath to see if there process had merit. I had heard that those engagements with EPA had slowed and we have not heard much since, and assumed that they would be less involved in the project in the future.

OU5 – Area 1 - I explained that EPA had issued a ROD at the end of last year and EPA is negotiating the Consent Decree with the Responsible Parties this summer. Work identified in the ROD will be mostly sediment removal near the City of Kalamazoo and Floodplain soil removal near Plainwell. It is hoped that the Remedial Design will begin later this year.

Area2 – The Remedial Investigation report has been approved for Otsego City Impoundment. A draft Feasibility study has been submitted by the Responsible Parties for agency review. The types of cleanup options in the FS range from no action (which is required) to full cleanup to a lower standard on the high end, with several other options that fall in between.

Area 3 – The RI report is very close to being approved for Otsego Twp. impoundment. DNR just completed the completion of a temporary water control structure and removal of the former powerhouse at the former dam site. The water control structure will be in place for the Time Critical Removal Action for which EPA signed a Unilateral Order compelling the Responsible parties to conduct a cleanup starting this year. The reason the work was ordered was because the dam was failing and high concentration of PCBs were present near the dam and work needed to be conducted to avoid uncontrolled release of contaminated sediments downstream. The parties conducting the work will be GP, International Paper and Weyerhaeuser. The work will start this year near the M-89 bridge crossing with the bulk of the work being conducted in 2017.

Area 4 – The work plan and investigation work at Trowbridge has been completed and EPA expects to receive a Draft RI report this summer.

Area 5 Allegan City, Area 6 Lake Allegan, and Area 7 (Allegan city dam to Lake Michigan) will also have work plans and investigation conducted in a stepwise fashion (moving downstream).

He also had general questions from his review of the Legislative Report. He noticed that there seem to be a lot of examples where EPA and the State disagreed over the investigation and cleanup work that were required at sites. I explained that these sites are very complicated and the science can be viewed many different ways. It is not so simply that there is only one way to view these sites. This can lead to differences of opinion about how work should be conducted at complicated sites. MDEQ is always looking to improve communication with our agency partners.

He also asked if DEQ thought that public engagement was helpful at sites or if having an engaged public hindered work at sites. I explained that inclusion of the public at sites was a huge priority for the DEQ and that we felt the process was always improved by engaging the public.

I gave him a lot of information and he took a lot of notes. I encouraged him to call me back if he had any follow up questions. We shall see what makes it into the story once it is published.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Paul

From: Garret Ellison [<mailto:GELLISON@mlive.com>]

Sent: Monday, May 02, 2016 2:29 PM

To: Bucholtz, Paul (DEQ)

Subject: Allied Paper update

Paul,

I'm trying to get an update on 2016 work at Allied Paper site. Working on an overall Michigan Superfund site update and Allied Paper is one of the major projects. Curious to know if the BioPath plan was approved or not.

Have also reached out to EPA, but you guys at DEQ are usually easier to reach.

Got any time yet today?

Thanks,

Garret Ellison
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